

The Colony Trail System Update

Phase 1 of The Colony's Trail System Master Plan is under construction! We also have a small section of Phase 2 (Park Loop Trail) and Phase 3 (Austin Ranch Trail) under construction as well. The official ground breaking was held October 21, 2008 and construction should be done by the beginning of June 2009. When all three of the current trail projects are complete, we will have added more than five miles to our current trail inventory. A grand opening ceremony is being planned for the trails so keep an eye out for the invitation and come join us as we celebrate these wonderful additions to our city.

Shoreline Trail Info

The Colony Shoreline Trail will be a 10' wide linear, natural surface trail. The trail will start at Stewart Creek Park (a regional facility, leased and managed by the City from the USACE) and wind through park land as well as US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Wildlife Management Area (also leased/managed by the City), along the perimeter of Lewisville Lake, then terminate at Ridgepointe Park. The trail will be almost four miles long with minimal slope challenges. The trail is constructed of 5" of decomposed granite and a material from Presto Products called Geoweb will be installed to provide additional structural support and to help reduce maintenance costs. A concrete parking lot will be constructed at Stewart Creek Park (SCP) as the primary trail head and the existing lot at Ridgepointe Park will be expanded to better serve the neighborhood. The SCP trail head will also include maps, signage and an entry feature to the trail. Benches, litter receptacles, and pet stations will be located along the trail at half-mile intervals. The trail will be designed to blend into the natural setting and a mitigation plan will be developed in accordance with USACE regulations. Mitigation activities will include repair and reestablishment of native plant material in areas disturbed by construction and beyond the edge of the trail surface; removal of invasive and non-native plant species, and enhancement of existing fringe areas. Accessibility is also a high priority and current standards will be followed to enhance use of the trail and trail facilities for all.

A large part of the trail is located in USACE flood control lands and subject to flooding in severe weather. Being in a USACE wildlife management area, visitors can expect to see a variety of native flora and fauna. Interpretive signage will be posted to provide educational opportunities and to enhance awareness of the natural systems. This trail project offers a unique opportunity for our city and the surrounding region.

Park Loop Trail

We are adding approximately half a mile of concrete to the Park Loop Trail that extends from the existing concrete section built in the Legends development. New construction begins at Slay Baker Park and continues up to North Colony Blvd. through the Atmos Gas utility easement. When complete, this phase of the master trail plan will connect eleven parks and three schools.

Austin Ranch Trail

This phase of the master plan will ultimately connect The Colony's trail system to the trail systems in Plano and Carrollton. This first section will start at The Colony\Plano city limit line near Plano's Sunset Park. Plans are being coordinated with Plano's Parks & Rec Dept. to extend their trail to meet the Austin Ranch Trail. From Austin Ranch Park the trail winds through the existing Austin Ranch development to Windhaven. From the Sainsbury intersection the 8'/10' trail heads west to Plano Parkway. Future additions to this phase will bring the trail up Plano Parkway, under Hwy 121 and join the other phases of trail system.